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United States Government **Department of Energy**

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 19, 2004

REPLY TO ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-174)

TO: Ben Zelinsky
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Blue Creek Site Restoration Project

Project No: BPA Project #199604601, Work Order #00033550, Task 02

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS*):* 1.6 Install Large Woody Debris Structures 1.7 Install Other Habitat Complexity Structures 1.8 Bank Protections Through Vegetation Management 1.9 Structural Bank Protections Using Bio-Engineering methods 7.10 Erosion Control and Vegetation at Project Completion

Location: Walla Walla County, Blue Creek, Walla Walla River, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR)

Description of the Proposed Action: This project is to conduct maintenance on a channel restoration project on Blue Creek that will include sinuosity enhancement, creation of grade control structures, bank sloping and stabilization, large wood additions, and planting of native vegetation.

Analysis: The proposed activity for this project includes the repair of three log weirs that have failed in Blue Creek, one of which has become a passage barrier. Replacement of the V-log weirs with the construction of full-spanning boulder weirs in an upstream U shape with a semi-open face within the center one-third of the channel is proposed. The structures would be built at a relatively low elevation in relations to the existing channel bed and the apex of the U structure would be offset. Structure keys would extend 10 feet in to the bank on both sides of each weir and a keyed log jam would be installed to develop a gravel bar that corrects the meander. The structures would dissipate stream energy and turn the thalweg toward the bank. Finally, rootwads with footer logs would be installed and the bank would be sloped to 2:1 incline to allow for planting.

Project objectives include the prevention of further damage resulting from a heatcut moving into the project area from downstream reaches; restoring riparian floodplain and instream habitat quality through meander enhancement, bank stabilization, instream large woody debris additions, and grade control; and continuing to encourage establishment of riparian vegetation by stinging in willows and planting native grasses, shrubs and trees.

This project was meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

A Biological Assessment was prepared by CTUIR in May of 2003 and edited for submittal to USFWS and NOAA in July 2003 for Section 7 Consultation.

Concurrence from USFWS was received that the proposed project as described in the BA is not likely to adversely affect bull trout and no effect is expected on bald eagle, yellow-billed cuckoo, Canada Lynx or Ute Ladies'-tresses.

Formal consultation with NOAA Fisheries was initiated on August 4, 2003. NOAA prepared a Biological Opinion (BO) and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) document determining that the proposed action would likely adversely affect the Middle Columbia River steelhead. However, NOAA Fisheries concluded that the implementation of the proposed project would not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of Middle Columbia River steelhead and provided an incidental take statement which included reasonable and prudent measures and terms and conditions designed to minimize take.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) consultation concluded that the proposed project may adversely impact designated Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for Chinook and coho salmon. NOAA addressed the negative effects resulting from the proposed actions and recommended the implementation of specific reasonable and prudent measures of the ESA consultation and terms and conditions identified therein as EFH conservation measures.

In July 2004, CTUIR agreed to the terms and conditions of NOAA Fisheries BO and EFH Consultation. BPA and CTUIR have integrated those conservation measures and terms and conditions into an Erosion Control Site Plan to minimize the adverse effects to designated Essential Fish Habitat for Chinook and coho salmon (contamination of waters, suspended sediment, and habitat alteration). In accordance with the BO, CTUIR is to complete the erosion control plan with the project contractor prior to any project actions. ESA consultation is now complete.

A Cultural Resource Survey was completed in September 1997 during the original restoration project. Catherine Dickson, CTUIR Tribal Historic Preservation Office Cultural Resources Protection Program, and Scott Williams, Washington State Historic Preservation Office, reconfirmed in September 2003 that this project would have no effect on cultural or historical resources in the area.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as BPA's Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD. This Supplement Analysis finds that:

1) implementing the proposed action would not result in any substantial changes to the Watershed Management Program that are relevant to environmental concerns; and
2) there are no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the Watershed Management Program or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Patricia Smith 8-19-04
Patricia R. Smith
Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney DATE: *8-19-04*
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

Attachments:
Biological Assessment
USFWS Consultation Letter
NOAA Biological Opinion & Essential Fish Habitat Consultation

cc: (w/o attachments)
Mr. Jed Volkman, CTUIR Habitat Biologist